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Westinghouse News

For Immediate Release

**Westinghouse Receives High Marks
For Management, Operation of WIPP**

CARLSBAD, N.M., January 11, 2000 – The Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division (WID) received high marks from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for its management and operation of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in fiscal year 1999.

For the 12-month performance evaluation period from October 1, 1998 through September 30, 1999, Westinghouse received 94.9 of a possible 100 points. The DOE considers a score of 86 to 95 as good. A score above 95 is considered outstanding.

The DOE rating determines the award fee a contractor receives for its work during an appraisal period. Award fee is compensation linked to actual contractor performance as evaluated by the DOE.

"I am pleased with the DOE's recognition of our performance," said WID General Manager Joe Epstein. "It is especially rewarding to receive these scores acknowledging the quality and safety of work performed by Westinghouse employees at WIPP."

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The DOE's appraisal report commended Westinghouse for several accomplishments including:

- ! A proactive approach to addressing stakeholder issues, for which Westinghouse received an outstanding 97.3.
- ! Noteworthy news media coordination and public outreach support for WIPP's first waste receipt and grand opening events.
- ! Receipt of a final Hazardous Waste Disposal Permit from the State of New Mexico that allows WIPP to dispose of radioactive and chemically hazardous (mixed) waste.
- ! Coordination, development and delivery of outstanding emergency response training to states and tribal governments and participation in special emergency responder tours and presentations. Almost 3,000 first responders were trained during the appraisal period, a 20 percent increase over the previous year.

Overall, Westinghouse received ratings of "good" or "outstanding" in the three measurable performance areas. The company also received no scores lower than 93.

Westinghouse has been the management and operating contractor for DOE at WIPP since 1985.